



**MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 9.30 AM HYBRID – THE BOARD ROOM AT  
THE ROUNDHOUSE AND REMOTELY BY MS TEAMS**

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Present: Alan Brady (Chair), Andrew Cochrane, Phil Dover, Jack Ellis-Guthrie, Mandie Stravino

In attendance: Melanie Lanser, Tony McIlroy, Kate Martin, Heather Simcox, Rose Matthews (Clerk to the Corporation)

*Prior to the meeting Members visited the Sport and Public Services Academy providing the opportunity to meet with managers, delivery staff and students.*

	Action	Date
<b>01/23-24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Sue Bradley		
<b>02/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUORUM</b>  All members were eligible, and the meeting was quorate. There were no new declarations.		
<b>03/23-24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2023</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2023 were formally approved as a true and accurate record.		
<b>04/23-24 MATTERS ARISING</b>  There were no matters arising.		
<b>05/23-24 ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>  The Clerk had undertaken a review of the terms of reference. Slight changes were proposed that reflected oversight of partner performance, complaints and compliments and student voice.  <b>RECOMMENDED: The Committee recommended the Terms of Reference to the Corporation for approval at its meeting on 23 October 2023.</b>		
<b>06/23-24 EDUCATION OUTCOMES</b>  The Vice Principal – Quality of Education provided a summary of performance in A Levels, GCSEs and T Levels and proposed draft planned improvements for 2023-24.		

Value added was not a valid measure in 2023, nor would be reported in performance tables.

Members noted there had been significant improvements in A-Level outcomes, which were well above the national rate of improvement. However, there was a caveat that that 2019 were not as successful as other years.

High grade outcomes and analysis of performance broken down by subjects and cohorts was presented and discussed.

**Questions were raised in relation those areas determined by the College as requiring improvement, some of which had faced staffing challenges due to illness or struggles to recruit.**

Members were informed a number of routes had been taken to try and recruit earlier in the year, such as approaches to other schools, agencies, but all faced the same challenges as the College.

**The Corporation Chair asked if any other subject areas had vulnerabilities.** Economics had to be collapsed as the College were unable to recruit. Most areas had single specialists, or 1.5 teachers covering a whole subject and if teachers leave, this impacts on the ability to deliver.

**The Committee Chair noted there had been large numbers wanting to do economics and he had if they had gone elsewhere.** Some had enrolled on other subjects, but many had gone elsewhere.

Members discussed partnership working with other institutions and it was explained some teachers do teach fractional hours and have contracts with other institutions. It was vital the College had subject specialists.

**The Corporation Chair asked if the College felt confident they were doing everything they could to improve those areas in RI.** Subject action plans had been developed for those areas which had been created in partnership with the teaching team. The academic subjects had been separated out to focus on the improvement plans in addition to the usual performance meetings.

Whilst value added could not be used in relation to grades, it had been used to evaluate gaps.

In A Levels the biggest demographic gap was students declaring mental ill-health when they enrolled or whilst they are on programme.

In GCSE English and maths the biggest demographic gap is in high grades in English for males. The disadvantage gap has narrowed.

**The Committee Chair questioned if there was a buddy scheme in place to support those identified with mental ill-health to support with resilience.** It was confirmed this happened and also for late starters in vocational areas. The Progression Coaches supported students to get them more engaged.

**Members noted that the figures related to those declaring mental health issues, but there must be others that did not declare it. He asked how worried were the College about that gap.**

There were a range of people in the College with mental health difficulties, from those with significant issues to those who were a little bit stressed. The team were looking at teaching strategies to get them engaged and support different attitudes to learning. The first few weeks in College were crucial to embed behaviours.

**Members went on to ask if there were more students at College with mental health issues than school.** The VP was waiting to see national data on gaps. There was no benchmarking.

**Members discussed with the SLT if there had been any surprises in the results and asked about improvement plans.** The journey continued particularly around mental health, but the key improvement was on formative assessment.

The Committee Chair pointed out that many students were unlikely to achieve a 4 on their first retake. GCSE English and maths was a tricky comparison, comparing those who had retaken 2-3 times against those who had taken once.

Those students on a dedicated resit programme had performed well because they needed as part of their career choice.

**Members questioned staff motivation.** The challenges with study programme English and maths was a national problem. The teachers were teaching reluctant students who had already failed previously. It was hard.

**The Committee Chair asked if it was a consistent team.** The staff were resilient.

The Committee went on to discuss T Level results and Members praised the College, national data showed a huge drop out but that was not evidenced at the College. The College had outperformed national data in all grades.

**The Corporation Chair raised concern about the volumes coming through from the city in relation to GCSE English and maths.** The College were introducing more measures to support, they were piloting workshops in two areas with less hours.

The Committee Chair thanked the Vice Principal Quality of Education for a comprehensive report.

## **07/23-24 ENROLMENT UPDATE**

The Deputy Principal shared a live enrolment dashboard with all members.

Enrolment was positive and above the year-to-date figure last year.

Those areas the College had overrecruited to were shared, such as Travel and Tourism, Built Environment, Hair, Sport and ICT.

Some areas had waiting lists (such as electrical) and the College were working with other providers to secure a place and also revisiting to see if cohorts can be started later.

**The Committee Chair noted the key was the 42 day mark and asked how the DP felt about that.** The College was ahead of where it was last year. There had been a drop in A Level number because some students didn't achieve the grades they needed.

**Members questioned subjects that couldn't run due to low numbers.** All subjects would be running. There was a bigger increase and ask for Level 1 provision and they were looking at enabling a bigger provision in engineering and building grades.

**The Committee Chair asked about other provision, LEXIS, ESOL and apprenticeships.** They were ongoing and looked to be on track.

#### 08/23-24 **QUALIFICATION REFORM**

The Director of Strategy, Policy, Planning and Regulation provided a brief update on the post-16 qualification reform.

The report (alongside the presentation) offered information and timelines on the qualification reforms for both academic and technical qualifications following the DFE consultation at both Level 3 & Level 2 and below.

The Curriculum Business Planning process would need to take into account these changes for the coming year.

The Corporation Chair said it would have a knock-on effect with employers. Many are just understanding T Levels, but this adds further confusion.

There isn't a standard for some curriculum areas such as travel and tourism and next year will see a set of qualifications defunded, yet it will be a whole year before the new ones come in, which could prove a risk

Further updates will be provided as and when known.

#### 09/23-24 **POLICY REVIEWS**

An annual review of the Safeguarding and Little Explorers Safeguarding Policy had been undertaken against the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. No significant changes had been made.

**RECOMMEND: The Committee recommended the policies to the Corporation for approval.**

Chair 23/10/23

**10/23-24 WHAT HAVE THE COMMITTEE LEARNED TODAY?**

Members had a long discussion about the results, overall performance and gaps and strategies to support with GCSE English and maths.

They received information on enrolment and the complexities of the qualification reform proposals.

**11/23-24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 4 December 2023.

*The meeting finished at 11.53 pm*